Reply to letters received from MPs

†1752. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the guidelines of provisions made in proceeding of replying the letters of the Members of Parliament, the action against the employees of the State Government is not taken;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government are taking so that employees of the State Governments may be covered under these provisions resulting in quick reply of the letters of the Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The procedures for handling letters received form the Members of Parliament are laid down in Paras 63, 66 and 127 of the 12th edition of Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP). The guidelines contained in the Manual are applicable to the Ministries/Departments of Government of India only. The provisions relating to replies to the letters from the Members of Parliament have, however, been circulated to the State Governments from time to time with the request that they may formulate and issue appropriate guidelines/instructions.

Stagnation in the cadre of UDCs in reserved category

1753. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a heavy stagnation in the cadre of UDCs as many personnel have not got the promotion since 5 years in the reserved category like SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of posts filled during the last ten years in the category of non-gazetted personnel in SCs/STs;

(d) the number of posts still vacant for SCs/STs;

(e) the reasons for not filling up the posts even though lying vacant; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) the steps to be taken by Government to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) A large number of posts of UDCs exist in different Ministries, Departments, attached and subordinate offices of the Government. Information in respect of stagnation or otherwise is not centrally maintained. However, Assured Career Progression Scheme has been introduced by the Government to mitigate the problem of stagnation of employees including UDCs.

(c) and (d) Information is not centrally maintained.

(e) There is generally a time gap between occurrence of vacancies and filling up thereof as recruitment is a continuous process. Some posts remain unfilled due to reasons like non-availability of requisite number of reserved category candidates; etc.

(f) In order to fill up vacancies reserved for SCs and STs, various relaxations and concessions are given. In case of direct recruitment, SCs/ STs get concessions like relaxation in upper age limit by five years, exemption from payment of examination/application fee, relaxation in qualification regarding experience at the discretion of UPSC/competent authority, relaxation in standards of suitability, etc. in case of promotion they get concessions like extension of zone of consideration to five times the number of vacancies in case suitable SC/ST candidates are not available within the normal zone of consideration, relaxation in marks/standards of evaluation, relaxation in upper age limit by five years, where the prescribed upper age limit for promotion does not exceed 50 years etc. The Government has issued guidelines for conducting a Special Recruitment Drive to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs/ and STs both in direct recruitment quota and promotion quota.

Reservation in services

1754. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 57 years of Independence, the Group 'A'& 'B' Posts meant for SCs and all the posts meant for STs have not been filled up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and